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Report of the Meeting of the New England Region

Matthew F. Morry

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND REGION

On Saturday, October 24, 1981, the New England Region of the Mariological Society of America held its annual meeting at Providence College, Providence, R.I. The theme for this year's meeting, commemorating the 1550th anniversary of the proclamation at the Council of Ephesus of Mary, Mother of God, was: "MARY—HIS MOTHER, BLESSED AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE."

The meeting opened at 10:20 A.M. with greetings from the Very Reverend Thomas R. Peterson, O.P., President of Providence College. His Eminence Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, D.D., delivered the keynote address. The Cardinal's paper was a theological/pastoral reflection on Mary's Motherhood of Jesus and her motherhood of mankind, emphasizing in the latter part her spiritual maternity and her role as Mother of the Church. The Cardinal highlighted the relationship between Mary as Mother of God and Mother of mankind and Mary as Mother of God and Mother of the Church, stressing the continuity and constancy of the Church's understanding and teaching concerning Mary's role and function in Salvation History. Moving from a Biblical reflection, through the Fathers of the Church and up to Vatican Council II, the Cardinal developed the theme of Mary's role in the transmission of life in the order of grace. He noted that "Mary, Mother of the Church" is a notion developed from the reality of the Church mystically united with Christ. The Divine Motherhood is the basis for Mary's relationship to the physical Christ and to the mystical Christ, which is the Church. Then, the Cardinal called upon theologians to deepen our understanding of the mystery of Christ and of the Church through an understanding of Catholic doctrine on Mary. He cited the value of the title "Mary, Mother of the Church" for ecumenical

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discussions.

Present for the meeting were some 170 priests, religious and lay people from the New England states. A Marian liturgy followed the keynote address. The Most Reverend Kenneth A. Angell, D.D., auxiliary bishop of Providence, was main celebrant at the concelebrated Mass. The homilist, Rev. J. Paul Mahoney, O.P., co-director of the graduate program in Religious and Biblical Studies at Providence College, called attention to Mary as member *par excellence* of the Church and as prototype and model of the Church. He saw in the Church also the New Eve described by the Book of Revelation; yet, in her vicissitudes, the Church does not stand alone, for Mary, her Model, stands present to all of us.

Luncheon brought the day to a close, and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.

On December 8, 1981, the New England Region hosted a slide lecture on Our Lady of Guadalupe. Ed Marshall, research scientist at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, made the presentation. Ed described several original experiments he had devised in order to explain and to bring out the deeper meaning of the appearance of Our Lady and of her image on the *tilma*. The experiments concerned color and photography, and were regarded by him as scientifically probative.

REV. MATTHEW MORRY, O.P.
Director, New England Region, MSA